

447 Franklin Turnpike
Apt. 6
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430
October 31, 1997

Dr. William Jamison
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Dr. Jamison:

I am writing to you with utmost concern regarding your organization's possible actions in recommending that saccharin be taken off the list of products that are believed to be carcinogens.

I urge your organization to not take this action, and to keep things the way they are.

I am just a layman--a writer, by trade--who recently had a major scare with prostate cancer. Six months ago, during a routine physical exam, it was discovered that my PSA level was 6.1. As we both know, that's very high for anyone--and particularly for a 46-year-old male. Thankfully, my biopsy came back benign.

However, it was clear that I had to make changes in my diet in order to lessen my chances of contacting prostate cancer. I immediately began eating more broccoli and also increased my consumption of carrots because of the beta-carotene factor.

But the most significant change I made in my diet was the immediate elimination of Sweet 'n Low. Until that point, I had been a heavy user of this saccharin-based product. For years, because of my desire to have sweetness in my coffee, I had used 4 packs of the product every morning in my two cups of coffee. In the last year or two, because I had been conscious of what I felt was increased daily urination, I had reduced that consumption to 3 daily packs of Sweet 'n Low. After the biopsy, my consumption of saccharin-based products became limited to diet soda.

Last week, I had a blood test to recheck my PSA level--and make sure (and pray) that things were under control. It was my first PSA test since April. THE RESULTS WERE SIGNIFICANT! Since eliminating Sweet 'n Low from my diet, my PSA level had dropped to 4.6, from 6.1. I am able to breathe easier for awhile, so to speak.

But will others be able to breathe easier if saccharin is eliminated from the list of carcinogens? Experiments have been done on rats and monkeys, but what have studies shown in results to human consumption of Sweet 'n Low and other saccharin-related products?

From what I know, science has not been able to determine what causes cancer. My doctors have not been able to tell me why my PSA level went to a dangerous level, nor why my prostate gland

continues to enlarge with age.

They didn't tell me to eliminate Sweet 'n Low from my diet. I did it on my own.

I do not believe the results are a mere coincidence.

According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer will kill 42,000 American males this year. It has affected Arnold Palmer, Sen. Robert Dole and General Norman Schwartzkopf. It currently has Bishop Desmond Tutu in its ravages. And, of course, it threatened me.

Who else will this cancer--or any other cancer--kill or affect next?

I again urge you and the NIH to take extreme care and caution in your thoughts about eliminating saccharin from the list of carcinogens. I don't believe you and your organization can tell me or anyone else BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT that saccharin is not linked to any form of cancer.

What I believe is this...

Your organization is playing with an extremely loaded gun...

And you really don't know where it's aimed.

Sincerely,


Robert H. Seligman

P.S. If you want to contact me immediately to discuss this matter, I can be reached during the day at (201) 796-6031 ext. 206 or in the evening at (201) 760-9326.